

**IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): **Bernd ADAM and Michael HAHN**  
Int'l Application No.: **PCT/DE2004/002121**  
Application No.: **NEW**  
Filed: **March 28, 2006**  
For: **DEVICE FOR DETECTING CONTACT WEAR IN  
SWITCHING APPLIANCES**

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
(SUBMISSION CONCURRENT WITH THE  
FILING OF A NEW PATENT APPLICATION)**

Customer Service Window  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
**Mail Stop PCT**

March 28, 2006

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, applicant(s) hereby submit(s) an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

**I. LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS OR OTHER INFORMATION**

The patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office are listed on PTO-1449, attached hereto.

**II. COPIES**

- Submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each U.S. and foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and (iii) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.
- This application is a National Phase of a PCT application. Some or all of the documents listed on the PTO-1449 are not enclosed because they were cited in the International Search Report and copies should be forwarded from the International Search Authority. If copies are needed, please contact the undersigned.

Because the present application is being filed after June 30, 2003, no copies of the U.S. patents or U.S. patent application publications which are listed on the attached Form 1449 are enclosed pursuant to the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i). Any foreign patent documents or non-patent literature listed on the attached Form 1449 are enclosed herewith.

**III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE**  
(check at least one box)

**a.  DOCUMENTS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

Some of the attached patents, publications, or other information in the English language do not require a statement of relevancy.

**b.  DOCUMENTS NOT IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

A concise explanation of the relevance of all patents, publications, or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows:

Many of the documents have been discussed in the PCT Search Report, the PCT Preliminary Examination Report, and/or throughout the specification. The PCT Search Report and PCT Preliminary Examination Report, along with a German translation aid translating key terms into English, indicate the degree of relevance found by the PCT Office, thereby satisfying the requirement for a concise explanation. See MPEP 609(A)(3). German Patent Publication No. 4309177 corresponds to U.S. Patent Publication No. 5747984.

**c.  ENGLISH LANGUAGE SEARCH REPORT**

An English language version of the search report or action that indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is attached, thereby satisfying the requirement for a concise explanation. See MPEP 609(A)(3).

**d.  OTHER**

The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration.

Applicants include a German translation aid for translating terminology in the PCT Search Report and Examination Report to thereby satisfy Applicant's requirement for an English language translation thereof.

**e.  EQUIVALENCY DOCUMENTS**

New PCT National Phase Application  
Docket No. 32860-001017/US

FEES

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the filing of a new patent application; therefore, no fee is required.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this IDS, he/she is requested to contact the undersigned. If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 08-0750.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By: 

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Enclosures:

- Form PTO-1449(s)
- Documents
- International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210)
- Other: German Translation Aid

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO		Complete if Known	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		Application Number	10/573,818
		Filing Date	MARCH 28, 2006
		First Named Inventor	Bernd Adam
		Art Unit	2858
		Examiner Name	Hoai-An D. Nguyen
Sheet	1	of	2
		Attorney Docket Number	

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature	/Hoai-An Nguyen/	Date Considered	03/03/2008
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**EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.  
This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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FORM HDP-1449 (Based on Form PTO-1449)		ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	SERIAL NO.
		32860-001017/US	Non-Application 10/573,818
		APPLICANT	
		Bernd ADAM et al.	
		FILING DATE	GROUP
		March 28, 2006	Unknown 2858

#### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Name	Class/ Subclass	(If appropriate) Filing Date

#### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Country	Class/ Subclass	Translation Yes	Translation No

#### OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	
	/HADN/	International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210)

Examiner: /Hoai-An Nguyen/

Date Considered: 03/03/2008

EXAMINER: Please initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.